

## Town Council Meeting

November 12, 2025

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The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, due to the Veterans Day Holiday on Tuesday, November 11, 2025, in the Town Municipal building with the Honorable Allen D. Smith, Mayor, presiding: Councilmember's in attendance were Ronald Mattox, Johnnie Brame, James G. Elam, Jr., Sandra Jones, and Chris Gill. Also attending were Town Manager Rodney Newton, Town Clerk Vickie McDaniel, Chief Camden Lawson and Fire Chief Frankie Tanner. Absent was Councilmember Christopher Garrett and Treasurer Diane Harding.

Mayor Smith called the meeting of the Town Council to order.

The invocation was given by Mayor Smith followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Mayor Smith asked if there were any additions to the meeting. There were none.

Mayor Smith asked if there were any Conflicts of Interest on matters being discussed on the agenda. There were none.

Motion was made by Councilmember Gill and seconded by Councilmember Brame to accept the October 2025 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to accept the Treasurer's Report for October 2025. Motion carried.

Chief Camden Lawson presented the Police Report. Chief Lawson stated they answered 222 calls, issued 34 summons and 6 arrests. Officer Bosher continues to perform well at the academy and is entering his final month of training. He is scheduled to graduate on December 17, 2025. Chief Lawson advised Officer Caleb Lafferty submitted his resignation on November 1, 2025. Mr. Lafferty owns his own business and is trying to expand. We wish him well in his future endeavors. Also, Chief Lawson stated during the month of October, officers responded to a TDO (Temporary Detention Order) at Farmville Hospital that turned into a prolonged and difficult incident. Officers and hospital staff were faced with multiple challenges and unfortunately assaulted during the encounter. Chief Lawson advised despite the circumstances, that our officers demonstrated professionalism and dedication to ensuring the safety of everyone involved. Chief Lawson showed council the new LIDAR radar units. It's a handheld radar that works off laser and can be positioned anywhere. They received two of the handheld LIDAR units and three new radar units for the vehicles through the DMV grant fund. Chief Lawson's radar unit has been installed along with safety racks for the rifles where they are secured and locked in the vehicle. There were no questions regarding the Police Report. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to accept the Police Report as presented. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Frankie Tanner presented the Fire Department Report. He advised they had a total of 128 responses for the month of October for Station 2 and Station 7. Chief Tanner updated on Truck 2. It has been lettered and picked up from the Cardsville Fire Station. We are scheduled for the lighting package and will be going to Atlantic Emergency Solutions in Richmond. Chief

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Tanner's goal is to have it in service by the first of December 2025 or shortly thereafter. Chief Tanner explained they will have extreme training on the new truck and an operations course. Chief Tanner discussed at last month's meeting about a No Parking zone on Firehouse Road. This is due to the length of the new ladder truck. This area has been used since the station opened for members to park and depart when responding to calls, along with public parking. The problem is the new ladder truck being so long; in order to safely make the turn either right or left, the truck is going to drop off the pavement on Firehouse Road. Chief Tanner advised Lanco Paving quoted a cost of \$48,000.00 to pave and stripe the parking lot along with fixing another area that is holding water. Chief Tanner stated they would accept anything council would like to contribute with this project. There were no questions regarding the Financial Report for September 2025. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to approve the Fire/Rescue Department report as presented. Motion carried.

Mayor Smith asked about the Committee Reports. There were none.

### Informational Items:

- a) Citizen Al Powell advised he is waiting on final approval for a meeting place to launch the Neighborhood Watch at the Victoria Baptist Church. Mr. Powell is getting the information together and then an email will be sent out to everyone.
- b) Mr. Newton updated on Northside Gospel. He spoke with VDOT today and they are still working on a plan for this. Apparently, there is an easement question as to whether VDOT has an easement or not. Mr. Newton hopes to have more information at next month's council meeting.

### Town Manager Update:

- a) Mr. Newton had no new updates on wastewater.
- b) Mr. Newton advised the hydrant flushing for the fall on Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> went extremely well. They actually finished up an hour quicker than in the spring, which means that the water is clearing up out of the hydrants a lot quicker so they are able to move faster. They did identify a few more hydrants that need work. Mr. Newton advised they have since purchased a valve exerciser that has a specific torque set to it with a counter on it so they can use it on hydrants and valves at a slower pace without breaking anything off of them. Mr. Newton advised Basin #2 had its semi-annual washout with no issues. They also flushed Modest Creek raw water line again and did it by running the generator the entire time with no issues. In the last couple of months, we have run both raw water sources off of generator power for a full day with no issues. Mr. Newton advised a check valve went down yesterday which made it stay open and the water would run making the pump run backwards. They disassembled, cleaned, inspected and reassembled it and it is functioning as it should with no cost to the town. Mr. Newton advised we made our switch over from chlorine gas to sodium hypochlorite on Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> and is going well. The inspector with the Department of Drinking Water will be here tomorrow to do a final inspection. Southern Corrosion will be here Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. We will be pumping out the clear well and doing the annual washout. We will be running on tanks for two days until the washout is done, refilled and the lab

testing done. Mr. Newton advised on Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, they will be doing the washout for Basin #1. Also, the new rates for the Lunenburg prison went into effect October 1, 2025 and the first billing was mailed on November 1<sup>st</sup> and paid as usual. One of his concerns is the setup we have with where the meter is, where the tank is and where their water lines are. Mr. Newton met with Mr. Joe Wood who is the head of facilities at the prison regarding this. Mr. Newton would like to consider adding a meter out around Falls Road. His thoughts are as quickly as that tank calls for water, some of our non-revenue water that we cannot account for each month maybe going out there and not being billed. Mr. Newton would like to purchase a new meter and meter box which will be approximately \$8,000.00 so we can better capture what is going to the correctional facility. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Brame to move forward with this project. Motion carried.

- c) Mr. Newton discussed the recent work session held on Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. Our waterworks facility was built in 1970. In 2005, it had a major rehab and now 20 years later we are at the point we need to start looking at some more rehab. Mr. Newton provided slides of the water filtration plant. The sediment basins were originally built in 1970. In 2005, repair attempts were made but they are continually deteriorating at a very rapid pace now. Mr. Newton provided an excerpt from the structural engineering survey we had done of the basin walls. They estimated \$75,000 to \$100,000 for possibly putting a wall inside but we would still have our issue of deteriorating concrete. The costs to build two new basins would be somewhere between \$2.5M to \$3M. The building itself is good other than the basins. They are currently waiting on parts for an 8-inch check valve so the pump is out of service. Mr. Newton also discussed our chemical costs over the last five years. In 2001, the cost for DelPac was \$31,000.00. This year the cost is \$43,000.00. For chlorine in 2001, the cost was \$3,500.00 and now its over \$6,000.00 for the same amount. The soda ash has almost jumped 50% as well from \$12,900.00 to \$19,000.00. Another one that we don't see or think about is electricity. We've gone from a little below .10 cents per kilowatt an hour to right now, we are paying a little over .12 cents. The average bill runs anywhere from approximately \$1,400.00 to \$2,300.00 a month. This does not include electricity at Nottoway Falls to run the pumps. Mr. Newton advised we have about 850 accounts. The meters we use now cost around \$250.00 each. Mr. Newton recommended doing away with residential, commercial and overage rates. We would have a base rate of \$25.00 with an increase over the next five years. Mr. Newton provided council a water rate proposal starting at \$6.00 per 1,000 gallons and then a 5% increase each year after. If we were to implement an increase like this starting January 1, 2026, we would generate an additional \$25,000.00 to \$26,000.00 for the remainder of FY26. Councilmember Elam recommended a Public Hearing at next month's council meeting on this proposal. Councilmember Brame second the Public Hearing for the proposed water rate increase effective January 1, 2026. Motion carried.
- d) Mr. Newton updated on blighted property. He sent five more Notice of Violation letters. He has had contact with some of the ones he sent letters to. He has seen a little bit of work being done and he spoke to a gentleman today who owns property over on Lincoln Avenue behind Victoria Automotive where the corner of the house has collapsed. His

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plan is to have that demolished by the end of the year. Mr. Newton updated on 1118 Main Street property. They are scheduled for court in February 2026.

- e) Mr. William Pernell updated on the Community Events and Recreation Report. Mr. Pernell stated even with the Town of Kenbridge's "Boo Bash" taking place the same night, our Trunk-R-Treat drew an impressive turnout. The Skate Night held on Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup> was a successful, well attended event. Our next Skate Night will be held on Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup> and is being sponsored by Benchmark Community Bank. They will pay for the first 50 skaters and are selling hamburgers and hot dogs at the event with all proceeds going back to the community center. Mr. Pernell announces the Lunenburg Christmas Parade will be held on Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. We have locked in our announcer, Mr. Kenny Hardy and Santa Claus. We are now focusing on getting as many participants as we can.

Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to go into closed session for discussion of negotiations for the sale of the 1220 Main Street property pursuant to VA Code §2.2-3711(A)29.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to return to regular session according to Code of VA Section §2.2-3712 and to certify that only business matters identified in the motion to convene and those lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements were discussed. By show of hands, all voted unanimously, yes. Motion carried.

Councilmember Gill made a motion and seconded by Councilmember Brame to accept the offer of \$58,000.00 for the 1220 Main Street property with stipulations on parking vehicles along the 1<sup>st</sup> Street side of building. Motion carried.

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting.

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Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

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Allen D. Smith, Mayor

Approved August 12, 2025

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Rodney Newton, Town Manager